



Weekly Drought Brief Monday March 31, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: Significant rain and snow fell over the past week in California thanks to late season storms. Precipitation totals (in inches) from Monday, March 24 through Sunday night, March 30:

- **Folsom:** 1.89" in the last week. 14.06" since July 1, 70% of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.42" in the last week. 3.82" since July 1, 39% of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 1.75" in the last week. 16.26" since July 1, 52% of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.01" in the last week. 5.47" since July 1, 42% of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.98" in the last week. 5.99" since July 1, 53% of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 2.40" in the last week. 18.28" since July 1, 65% of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 3.68" in the last week. 22.96" since July 1, 50% of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 3.00" in the last week. 20.32" since July 1, 69% of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 0.96" in the last week. 8.11" since July 1, 43% of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 5.36" in the last week. 31.96" since July 1, 57% of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 5.84" in the last week. 31.74" since July 1, 71% of normal by this date.

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: Another storm will move across Northern California tonight (Monday) and tomorrow (Tuesday), with low-pressure conditions creating additional storms through Wednesday. Storms will move east beyond California between Wednesday and Friday as a high pressure, dry system builds over the region.

****As our state's rainy season nears its end, much of California has received only about half of normal precipitation for this rainy season. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California most days in April to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels, which is highly unlikely. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years.****

Snow survey: The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on February 27, recorded California snowpack at 24% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 29% of normal as of March 30. The next manual snowpack survey will be conducted tomorrow (Tuesday) on April 1.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of March 30 are still low, including: Don Pedro 53%; Exchequer 23%; Folsom Lake 44%; Lake Oroville 48%; Millerton Lake 32%; New Melones 43%; Pine Flat 23%; San Luis 42%; Shasta 48%; and Trinity Lake 53%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 874 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 2,353 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 307 fires, burning 1,043 acres. 54 new fires were reported over the past week, most of which were kept small thanks to additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft added during this dry winter.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

State Government

- **State and Federal agencies work together to utilize recent precipitation:** As California's rainy season nears its end, recent rain and snow provide precious additional water for beneficial use. The Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation are working closely with the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies to consider actions that balance use of additional water for human, environmental and agricultural purposes. These agencies are conferring with stakeholders and may take action early this week to make use of this additional precipitation. These actions will be detailed on the [Water Management Actions](#) subpage of the state's drought information clearinghouse, www.drought.ca.gov.

The Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation are also expected to outline their longer-term water operations for the coming dry months to the State Water Board in the coming days, as they seek approvals from the Water Board that help to enable the state and federal water projects' short and longer-term water operations.

- **Water Board approves expedited water transfers in major area of the state:** Water transfers between water users in the state and federal water projects became easier last week when the State Water Board approved a "consolidated places of use" petition from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources. The decision allows water transfers to happen quickly between water users who utilize the state and federal projects. The petition was filed in late February and underwent a month-long mandatory public notice period before it could be approved.
- **State and Federal Fish and Wildlife Agencies take action to preserve fish:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [began an operation to move fish by truck](#) last week from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Redding to the Rio Vista area of the Delta. This operation aims to save nearly 30 million hatchlings and will take two to three weeks to complete. It is one of several such actions to preserve endangered fish species during the drought.
- **State's Drought Taskforce leaders travel to Santa Cruz:** This Friday, April 4, leaders of the Governor's Drought Task Force will conduct their third regional meeting with local officials in Santa Cruz. This meeting will include officials from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties and provide the Taskforce real-time information on drought challenges that local communities face.
- **State holds meeting with community groups on drought impacts:** [California Volunteers](#)—state government's volunteer and philanthropic outreach arm—and the California Endowment held an information gathering session last week in Salinas to better understand how foundation or corporate support for drought response can be directed. The next meeting of this effort will be held in Fresno in April.
- **Public meetings on grants for agricultural water efficiency:** The California Department of Food and Agriculture [announced that it will hold two public meetings](#) on April 11 and April 18 to help develop its \$10 million grant program for farm-based water efficiency projects. This program is funded by cap and trade proceeds and expedited under the State's recent emergency drought legislation.

- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 37 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, tribal governments, and special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, and Goleta Water District.
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 24 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
 State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
 Local Government [Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)
 California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
 California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
 California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
 California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
 California State Water Project, [Information](#)
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
 Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster